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**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
NO. 7015 1520 0000 7824 6550**

January 14, 2016

Mr. John Thomas
Environmental Specialist 3
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) – Duluth Office
Industrial Division
525 So. Lake Avenue, Suite 400
Duluth, MN 55802

RE: Alleged Violations Letter – U. S. Steel Minntac NPDES/SDS Permit No. MN0057207

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This letter is in response to the Alleged Violations Letter (AVL) dated December 30, 2015 that was received by U. S. Steel Minntac (USS) on January 5, 2016. As stated in the AVL, MPCA is requesting a written response within 15 days indicating what measures will be taken to ensure compliance with the permit if/when maintenance of the Seep Collection and Return System (SCRS) occurs in the future. The MPCA also requests that the response must include alternative measures to avoid discharging through Outfall SD002.

Since this issue was encountered, several corrective actions have been implemented to eliminate the discharge of collected surface seepage from the SCRS through Outfall SD002 during future preventive maintenance activities. Dedicated standby pumps were ordered in early January 2015 and will be installed in each pump station to control wet well water levels during maintenance periods. It is expected that these standby systems will be operational in early February. Discharge lines from the pump stations are now being jetted on a regular, approximately twice-per-year basis, to ensure unrestricted discharge flow. Clean-outs were installed in November 2015 in key locations within the system to facilitate line cleaning. Also, the system is being placed in queue for evaluation by Minntac's new Reliability Centered Maintenance group to identify any additional preventive maintenance activities that may be appropriate. Initial discussions have taken place and a more in-depth evaluation will be initiated during the first quarter of 2016.



Mr. John Thomas

January 14, 2016

Page 2

USS is more than happy to meet with MPCA to discuss the details of SCRS improvements and adaptive management activities that have been implemented to ensure proper system operation. As referenced in the AVL, we will wait for you to contact us regarding the next steps in this process. In the meantime, please contact me directly if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Casselberry

cc: D. L. Smiga
T. W. Woodwell
C. L. Bartovich

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